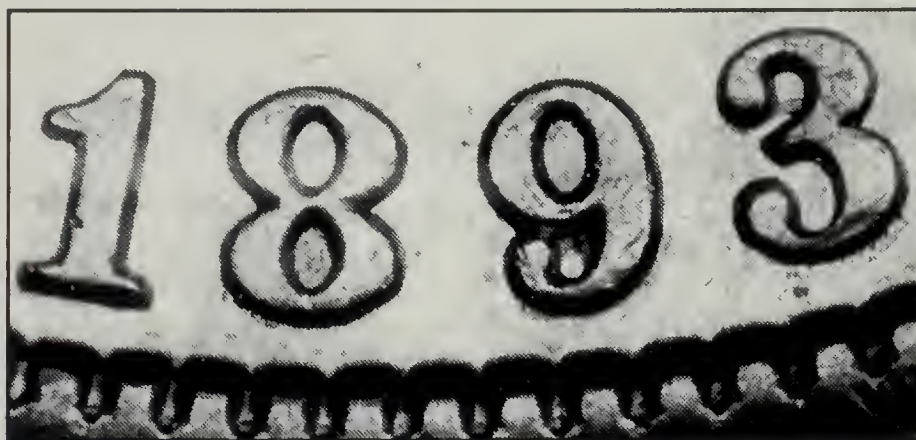


JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Volume VII, #1

Spring 1996

Single Copy: \$4.00



1893-S Half Dollar

Repunched Date

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BCCS Charter Member #2

JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Published quarterly. Dedicated to bringing together people with similar interests in Barber Coinage for the purpose of advancing appreciation of this series.

OFFICERS

Philip CarriganPresident
David Lawrence.....Editor, BCCS Journal
Paul ReuterSecretary/Treasurer
John Feigenbaum.....Typesetting/Layout, BCCS Journal
Tom Mulvaney.....Photographer

ADDRESSES

For articles, submitting coins to be photographed and other journal concerns write to Dave — P.O. Box 64844, Virginia Beach, VA 23467.

For membership dues & information and back issues, write Paul Reuter at: 415 Ellen Drive; Brookhaven, MS 39601.

For Society issues in general, survey responses, young numismatist award, etc. write Phil Carrigan at: 1105 N. Crescent Court; Round Lake, IL 60073.

ON THE COVER

This newly discovered repunched date is quite spectacular for a Barber Half (less so for a dime). The discovery coin is ANACS graded AU55. Repunching is clear inside upper loop of the 3.

We Need Your Articles!!!

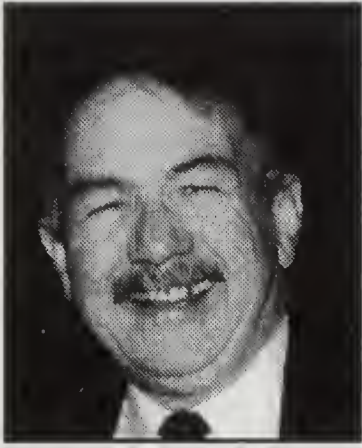
The BCCS *Journal* needs your input! If you've got some information to share with the rest of the Society, we'd like to publish it.

Please send submissions (handwritten, typed and/or on-diskette) to:

David Lawrence
C/O B.C.C.S. Article Submission
6095 Indian River Road, Suite 204
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Deadline for next issue is June 15th.

BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The start of a year coincides with membership renewals and dues payments. For the past two years this has been a rewarding experience for me. First, people renew their commitment to our Society in abundant numbers, rapidly and with notes of thanks and good wishes. It is great to share in all this. Elsewhere in this issue, we will read an up-to-the-minute count of members.

Among the comments our Secretary Paul Reuter receives with dues are suggestions for creating a bound volume of past journals. The Gobrecht Society has done this but I am unaware of other specialty organizations following in their steps. After discussion with Paul and Dave, it seems best to wait and build on new members who would likely have interest in this and ensure such a volume will sell. A related but independent idea concerns preparation for an index for the Journal through 1995. Russell Easterbrooks has agreed to do this for us, and we will incorporate it in one of this year's issues. One last item in the dues notes concerns establishment of a life membership category. This is certainly an indication of confidence and value in the BCCS; the society wrestled with this idea a few years back and eventually decided not to offer it because we are run by only a few people who might not be around 20 years from now.

I want to open the door on a topic of possible interest to our members, coin grading. There are two current developments in the context of grading. The first is the PCGS offer of "free crossover service" to non-dealers. Send them up to five coins slabbed by others, get PCGS opinions of grade, have them holdered and all FREE! See the March 18th COIN WORLD for info. Has anyone responded? Does our membership feel one slab is preferred to another, or alternatively, are certain grading services less desirable? We have experienced buyers of slabbed coins among our members who could contribute useful points to a discussion of this issue.

The second item regarding grading is the establishment of Photo Seal service by Rick Snow, a BCCS member, and Brian Wagner of Eagle Eye Rare Coins. They specialize in Flying Eagle and Indian cent coinage and justify this low cost service (\$15) based on the contention there are many ugly and marginal examples of these coins traded which serve to depress prices. Their 'seal' will arguably ensure the coin is nice and shouldn't be bargain priced. Does this concept have some use for Barbers? Are these ugly and/or overgraded coins frequenting the auction or bourse outlets. We solicit your opinion on this topic. Please write a short note and share a thought. Dave or I will immortalize your words in the Journal.

Finally, please consider the ANA Convention in your summer plans. It will be held in Denver, August 14 to 18; we will meet Saturday morning.

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan

FROM THE EDITOR

We begin this year with another great issue. Contributions from several members who have not written for us before as well as the usual gang.

In our last mailing we included a renewal form and stamped envelope. Response was terrific. As this issue goes to press we had 260 members paid up for 1996, that is 86.7% of the 300 we ended the year with. The society is healthy, and I look forward to sending out four great issues in 1996.

Two requests: 1) If you haven't sent in your '96 dues, please do so now. Otherwise, this will be your last issue, and 2) Keep sending in articles, notes, oddities, varieties for us to photo, and anything at all that relates to Barbers. Your contributions make our society great.



GET A *Ford* MODEL T FOR (4) BARBER DIMES!

The January 1915 issue of *Mehl's Numismatic Monthly* reported a story which had circulated about the country. It seemed that one could obtain a new Model T automobile if four dimes were found having mint marks with letters spelling F-O-R-D. B Max Mehl goes on to report no claim had yet been made but the publicity served the automaker well.

(excerpted from LaMarre's article in *Canadian Coin News* of 8-1-95)



TREASURY REPORT

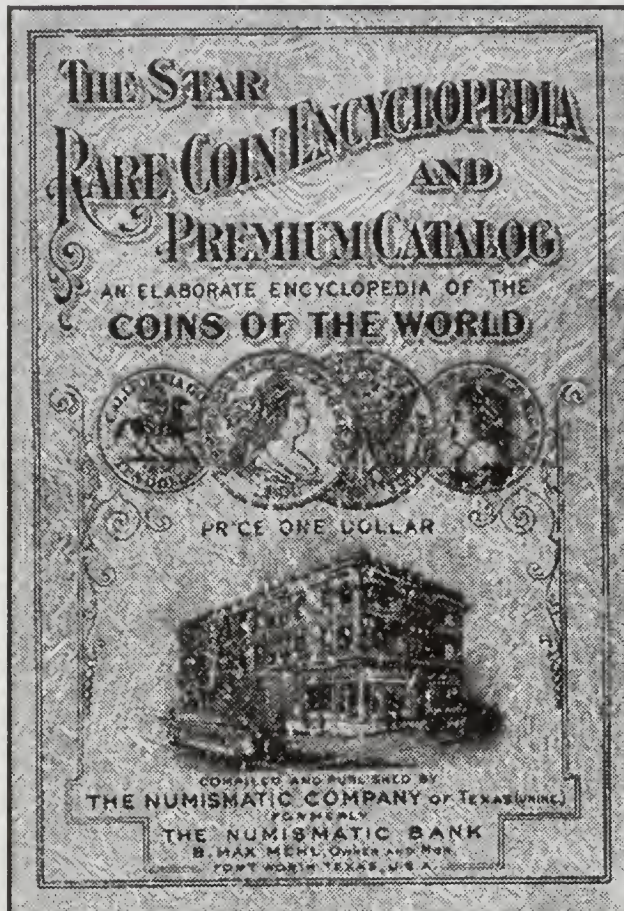
TWELVE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1995

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Opening Balance | Jan. 1, 1995 | | \$ 3,891.69 |
| Receipts | Dues | \$ 2,190.00 | |
| | Back-issue Sales | 236.00 | |
| | Advertising | 1,680.00 | |
| | Donation | 13.50 | |
| | Misc. | 24.00 | |
| | Total | | 4,143.50 |
| Funds Available | | | \$ 8,035.19 |
| Expenditures | Journal Production | \$4,060.50 | |
| | Postage | 179.92 | |
| | ANA Dues | 33.00 | |
| | Bank Charges | 26.43 | |
| | Total | | \$4,299.85 |
| Closing Balance | December 31, 1995 | | \$ 3,735.34 |

Signed: Paul Reuter, Secretary/Treasurer

WANT TO SELL YOUR 1894-S DIME FOR \$50 TO \$100?

By Tracy Witt



I recently bought this 1925 B. Max Mehl catalogue from an antique dealer. It's a list of prices he would pay -- a forerunner of today's "Blue Book." On page 30, he offers \$50 to \$100 for an 1894-S dime. Anyone want to sell theirs? In the next line, he offers .10 to .12 for 1895-P to 1923-P dimes. I wonder if the 12 cents is for the 1895?

Editor's note: The Louis Eliasberg specimen of the 1894-S will be auctioned off shortly by Bowers & Merena. It's supposed to be the finest of the ten known specimens.



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BARBER DIMES AND QUARTERS IN CIRCULATION: 1937-38

By David W. Lange

In doing research for my book on Lincoln cents, I've reread in its entirety *The Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*. Published from 1935 through February of 1976, this wonderful journal was truly the voice of the ordinary coin collector and the repository of the hobby's history for that period. I have a complete set of my own, and we also have a nicely bound set in my office at NGC. This publication is full of fascinating accounts of collecting coins from circulation, written at a time when such activity was new and a wide variety of old coins was still obtainable.

In the issue of November 1938, Dr. J. Robert Schneider published the results of his search through 5,000 dimes taken randomly from circulation in the area of Rock Island, Illinois. His survey covered a period of ten months from November 1937 to September 20, 1938. Although it included Mercury dimes as well, only the Barber dimes will be enumerated in this article.

In *The Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine* for January 1939, Dr. Schneider presented the results of his quarter dollar search. Although he doesn't provide the specific dates of his search, its stated ten-month duration likely covered the same period as his dime study. Included among the 5,000 coins examined were Barber, Standing Liberty and Washington quarters, along with a lone 1876-S Seated Liberty coin. All but the Barber pieces will be excluded from this article. The results of both surveys are as follows:

Barber Dimes

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|----|--------|----|--------|----|------------|----|
| 1892 | 6 | 1898-S | 1 | 1905-O | 1 | 1910-D | 4 |
| 1892-O | 2 | 1899 | 16 | 1905-S | 8 | 1910-S | 2 |
| 1892-S | 0 | 1899-O | 3 | 1906 | 19 | 1911 | 41 |
| 1893 | * | 1899-S | 0 | 1906-D | 9 | 1911-D | 22 |
| 1893-O | 0 | 1900 | 12 | 1906-O | 3 | 1911-S | 6 |
| 1893-S | 1 | 1900-O | 1 | 1906-S | 5 | 1912 | 52 |
| 1894 | 0 | 1900-S | 3 | 1907 | 36 | 1912-D | 29 |
| 1894-O | 1 | 1901 | 24 | 1907-D | 2 | 1912-S | 5 |
| 1895 | 0 | 1901-O | 7 | 1907-O | 6 | 1913 | 47 |
| 1895-O | 0 | 1901-S | 2 | 1907-S | 5 | 1913-S | 0 |
| 1895-S | 0 | 1902 | 27 | 1908 | 18 | 1914 | 45 |
| 1896 | 1 | 1902-O | 5 | 1908-D | 15 | 1914-D | 27 |
| 1896-O | 0 | 1902-S | 0 | 1908-O | 1 | 1914-S | 5 |
| 1896-S | 0 | 1903 | 19 | 1908-S | 10 | 1915 | 18 |
| 1897 | 6 | 1903-O | 8 | 1909 | 18 | 1915-S | 2 |
| 1897-O | 0 | 1903-S | 0 | 1909-D | 1 | 1916 | 41 |
| 1897-S | 1 | 1904 | 18 | 1909-O | 3 | 1916-S | 11 |
| 1898 | 14 | 1904-S | 0 | 1909-S | 4 | | |
| 1898-O | 2 | 1905 | 17 | 1910 | 20 | (dateless) | 7 |

* 1893-P was erroneously omitted from Dr. Schneider's listing

Barber Quarters

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------------|----|
| 1892 | 29 | 1898-S | 5 | 1905-S | 6 | 1911-S | 2 |
| 1892-O | 1 | 1899 | 73 | 1906 | 32 | 1912 | 38 |
| 1892-S | 5 | 1899-O | 9 | 1906-D | 9 | 1912-S | 2 |
| 1893 | 16 | 1899-S | 0 | 1906-O | 12 | 1913 | 4 |
| 1893-O | 6 | 1900 | 40 | 1907 | 54 | 1913-D | 7 |
| 1893-S | 3 | 1900-O | 9 | 1907-D | 8 | 1913-S | 0 |
| 1894 | 8 | 1900-S | 6 | 1907-O | 19 | 1914 | 50 |
| 1894-O | 4 | 1901 | 24 | 1907-S | 5 | 1914-D | 22 |
| 1894-S | 3 | 1901-O | 2 | 1908 | 29 | 1914-S | 3 |
| 1895 | 17 | 1901-S | 0 | 1908-D | 33 | 1915 | 30 |
| 1895-O | 7 | 1902 | 45 | 1908-O | 49 | 1915-D | 30 |
| 1895-S | 2 | 1902-O | 10 | 1908-S | 1 | 1915-S | 4 |
| 1896 | 21 | 1902-S | 5 | 1909 | 61 | 1916 | 19 |
| 1896-O | 2 | 1903 | 37 | 1909-D | 34 | 1916-D | 54 |
| 1896-S | 0 | 1903-O | 12 | 1909-O | 2 | | |
| 1897 | 37 | 1903-S | 2 | 1909-S | 12 | (dateless-P) | 13 |
| 1897-O | 4 | 1904 | 5 | 1910 | 11 | (dateless-D) | 0 |
| 1897-S | 2 | 1904-O | 8 | 1910-D | 7 | (dateless-O) | 9 |
| 1898 | 47 | 1905 | 29 | 1911 | 25 | (dateless-S) | 1 |
| 1898-O | 9 | 1905-O | 8 | 1911-D | 8 | (unknown) | 19 |

There are no big surprises from these surveys. Those date/mint combinations which are known to be rare today were already so in the 1930s. It's some consolation to know that even 60 years ago it was impossible or nearly so to complete a set of Barber dimes or quarters from circulation. Still, any collector of Barber coins in the 1990s would relish the opportunity to find as many as Dr. Schneider did in 1937-38.

Readers should bear in mind that the widespread collecting of coins from circulation was then a new phenomenon. Inexpensive holders for collecting by date and mint did not appear until 1934 and were not widely distributed until 1936. These were the 11" x 14" coin boards or "cards" as they were commonly called at the time. Sold in novelty shops, newsstands, toy stores and other non-numismatic venues, they brought coin collecting as a hobby to the ordinary person and quickly made it a family activity. As a pleasant sideline to my regular numismatic pursuits, I collect these old boards and the various folding albums that succeeded them in the 1940s.

Looking over the results of Dr. Schneider's survey, it's readily apparent that many early dates within the Barber dime series were already unobtainable. For the years 1894-96, only a single Philadelphia Mint coin turned up, while only eight pieces from the New Orleans Mint were found for all of the 1890s. San Francisco was represented by just three pieces from that decade. Among the 20th Century dimes for which no examples were found are 1902-

S, 1903-S, 1904-S and 1913-S. Being located in the nation's mid-section, Dr. Schneider probably saw a fair representation of the coins then in circulation, and it may be assumed that these S-Mint dimes were already quite rare. How many would have turned up in a survey conducted in the West?

One date which deserves some study is 1900-S. Common today in grades EF-AU, usually with signs of cleaning, dimes of this issue were reportedly shipped to Hawaii and the Philippine Islands. The fact that only three were found in circulation nearly 40 years later neither supports nor contradicts this belief, since that figure made it only slightly more common than adjacent dates from the San Francisco Mint. Dimes dates 1898-S and 1899-S are also among those considered disproportionately available in high circulated grades from their brief sojourn overseas, yet they proved extremely rare in domestic circulation during 1937-38.

Other 20th Century issues which stick out as particularly rare in this survey include 1905-O (1), 1907-D (2), 1908-O (1), 1909-D (1), 1910-S (2), 1913-S (0) and 1915-S (2). Scanning through *The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes* by David Lawrence, I see that all of these dates are singled out as being scarce to very scarce in circulated grades, though Lawrence considered 1913-S to be overrated. One particular comment is quite instructional:

The "big 4" late in the series are the 1908-O, 1909-D and S and 1910-S (not the 1913-S). For years these dates were severely underrated.

The mystery of the high-mintage 1907-D's rarity only deepens in reviewing this survey, since it was already scarce in the 1930s. Perhaps that story of four wagonloads of this issue being lost, as told by Ed Rochette and reprinted in our journal (Volume II, Number 2), has some validity after all.

Evidently, Dr. Schneider was lucky with respect to 1909-S dimes, as both Lawrence and other specialists have identified this date as being rare, yet the doctor found four of them in his ten-month search. Conversely, the rarity of 1913-S was reinforced by his locating not a single specimen. In all other respects, however, Dr. Schneider's survey conforms to what we now know regarding the rarity of circulated Barber dimes. It's surprising that only seven dateless dimes were found, as I saw quite a few during my days of hunting through dealers' "junk" boxes. For his survey, Dr. Schneider did not distinguish the dateless dimes by mint, if in fact he could.

In general, early-date dimes were far more scarce than quarters of similar vintage. For the dimes before 1900, there were ten issues for which no examples were found. With the quarters, however, only two coins were entirely absent. This pattern was true 20 years later in the 1950s, as reports of

the then greatly depleted supply appeared in *The Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine* and supported the rarity of dimes over quarters and that of quarters over halves. This last series was by far the most likely to still turn up in circulation during the 1950s, as they circulated more slowly and were less often saved by collectors, due to their high face value. The fact that Dr. Schneider never performed a survey of halves reinforces the notion that these were rarely saved at that time. The coin boards for half dollars are likewise seldom seen, and I have only a couple in my collection.

In studying the results of the quarter survey, it seems that the relative rarity of each issue in 1937-38 is similar to that known today, particularly for low-grade coins. Not surprisingly, no examples were found of the three key dates within this series -- 1896-S, 1901-S and 1913-S. What is illuminating is the great rarity of dates such as 1899-S (0) and 1908-S (1). In *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters* by David Lawrence, both dates are identified as being very scarce, yet the results of this survey provide graphic evidence of just how difficult they were to find at a time when Barber quarters as a type were not yet rare.

Also logging in as quite elusive were 1892-O (1), 1895-S (2), 1896-O (2), 1897-S (2), 1901-O (2), 1903-S (2), 1909-O (2), 1911-S (2) and 1912-S (2). Again, there are no real surprises in this group, although it's good to be reminded that although 1892-O is fairly common in AU and MS, it remains a scarce date in lower grades.

1898-S, 1899-S and 1900-S have all been identified as dates shipped to Hawaii and the Philippine Islands, yet only 1900-S is plentiful in higher circulated grades. In Dr. Schneider's survey, 1898-S and 1900-S were both fairly scarce, while 1899-S was not found at all.

A little more common than one might expect were 1892-S (5) and 1893-O (6). Both are now scarcer than the results of this survey indicated, and Dr. Schneider was particularly lucky with respect to 1892-S quarters.

It's fortunate that he didn't record the various grades of the coins he found for each date and mint. Still, the number of dateless quarters yet identifiable by mint is about what one would expect, given their aggregate mintages. No dateless Denver Mint quarters were found, probably because they hadn't circulated long enough to lose their dates. The finding of 19 pieces which lacked any indication of their date or place of manufacture is mute testimony to the rapidity with which silver coins wore in circulation. Those readers not old enough to remember silver in daily circulation will find it hard to believe that dimes and quarters typically wore down to Fine or even Very Good in as little as ten years. Our current cupro-nickel coins are vastly more durable.

It's clear from examining the results of both surveys that the passage of years really took its toll on the population of Barber dimes and quarters in circulation. Coins of the 1890s, even when having mintages similar to coins produced 20 years later, proved to have suffered severely from natural attrition. The fact that the collecting of coins from circulation really didn't catch on until the mid 1930s caused countless pieces to become worn beyond recognition and returned to the mints for recoinage. Only the dates from about 1910 onward survived in collectible grades in any appreciable numbers. Had coin boards been introduced a couple of decades earlier than they were, the story might well have been different.

❖

HOW I BEGAN COLLECTING BARBER HALVES IN MINT STATE

by Peter K. Shireman

In the past two years, I have become intensely interested in completing a set of Barber Halves in mint state. Although I previously have collected a variety of US coins, my favorite denomination has always been the half dollar. I have complete sets of circulated (mostly AG to VG with a few F) Barber Halves and uncirculated Franklin Halves, but I have always been fascinated by uncirculated Barbers because of their link to the 19th and early 20th centuries and their beauty.

The Barber coinage recalls a time long past when 10, 25, and especially 50 cents meant a lot and these coins were the real “blue collar” coins that were meant to circulate, and so they did. The stories that a well circulated Barber half could tell from its life of circulation is part of the romance of these coins. Uncirculated examples also must each have a very special story as to why they were saved (birthday, anniversary, graduation, etc.). Too bad, these coins can't talk, but we still have our imaginations and recorded history to fill in the voids.

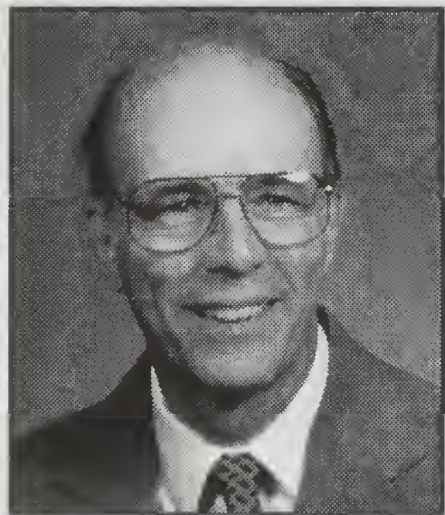
I started off innocently enough about two years ago thinking that a single uncirculated Barber Half in MS 64 would make a nice type coin and fulfill my dream of owning one. As you might expect, I was able to relatively easily find an 1892-P in MS 64 in a PCGS holder. I was satisfied for a brief time and began thinking of what coin series I might want to put my focus on.

I vaguely recalled an uncirculated Type Set of 20th Century coins I had purchased intact a few years before from a dealer at a coin show in Kansas City. The set was housed in one of those big Capital plastic boards, and resided in a safety deposit box. I knew that the half in the set was a nice one, but I did not recall paying much attention to the date and mintmark at the time of

purchase. I took a closer look at it the next time I went to the bank. It was a bright white 1909-S with a proof-like surface and a very strong strike! I couldn't believe that such a rare and beautiful coin was hiding in my type set. It was upon discovering this coin and having Dave Lawrence submit it for me to PCGS that I was smitten and decided I would try to put together a set of these wonderful coins in mint state. By the way, the 09-S came back certified as an MS64. I was so happy. As I have followed the available mint state Barber Halves for sale since then, I discovered the 1909-S is very hard to find.

I decided to attempt to try to complete the set with PCGS and NGC certified coins in MS 63 or 64, realizing that doing so would require a prolonged search and quite a bit of money. Although my preference is for white or lightly toned coins, I have learned that there are some coins that are almost impossible to find toned or otherwise. If I am lucky enough to ever complete my set, I figure it will take close to 5 years or more. I have already greatly benefited from and appreciate the fine scholarly works of members of the BCCS that have enabled all of us to understand far more about our country's fascinating Barber coinage. ❖

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER



Dues renewal time I try to correct mistakes in my mailing list. Each year I hope that the list becomes more error free. Also, I get notification of address changes along with annual dues, those being easy to handle. I try to match the address I have in my PC with the one on the member's check and return address, if any, on the envelope. If a member has a street address on one and a P.O. Box on the other, I favor the P.O. Box. If a member shows up with two dissimilar addresses, I'm on a guess. The address on the journal mailing is the one I'm using, so if not correct or your choice of address, please drop me a line. Thanks.

Paul Reuter

IS THE TIME NOW?

By Joe Haney

Soon after the Barber Society was formed the question was asked, "Should the Liberty Head Nickels be included?" After all, the coin was designed by Charles Barber, and the bust looks somewhat like his other coins. Just turned to face the other way.

When I received the most recent edition of the Journal this question flashed back very quickly, and I realized that the club has not acted on it. Sure we might not all agree on its validity, but we can talk about it.



Our BCCS President, Phil Carrigan, brought up the subject in the "Winter '95" edition of the Journal in his message to the members. He talked about the newly published "Complete Guide to Shield and Liberty Head Nickels" by Gloria Peters and Cynthia Mohon. The book could possibly be a nice spring board that we might expand on and use in our quest for more knowledge on the works of Charles Barber. We members will have to decide. I am not completely convinced myself. I do save the series very strongly, but more so for the many varieties that can be found in the seemingly short thirty years that the coins were struck. I say seemingly short because the entire set consists of only 33 coins. That includes the Denver and San Francisco strikes of the 1912 and the With and Without cents of 1883.

I am sure some want Barber's dime, quarter, and half dollar left alone. What I am trying to point out is, here is a group of coins that can be expanded with many many varieties in a rather inexpensive set. The 1885, 1886, and 1912-S being the only challenges. The dates are rather large and easy to see with a 10x to 16x lens. Most varieties can be found in Good to BU. Price is not usually restrictive. I have found in the past at shows and auctions that Barber coins are usually hard to come by and varieties more so, so I switched to the Liberty Nickels. More than likely, something will be found, and the show is not a bust.

To stimulate your interest a little and show you just what can be found, I am including a photo of an 1890 Liberty Nickel with strong repunching of the 189. Somehow it was omitted from the Peters/Mohon book.

So there you are, you are on your own. Play around with the idea for a while, check out some dealers' stock, or better still, check out your own coins. You might be surprised at what you will find and good hunting.

Editor's note: I will be glad to include notes and articles on Liberty Nickels.



COUNTERFEITS

(Courtesy of Joseph Thompson)



1908-O Half.
Coin is light and has an
"encrusted" look.



1908-D Half.
Coin is heavy
with mushy details.



1906-P Half.
Dark, off-metal,
light weight, and very rough.



1900-P Quarter.
Like the 1906 half,
dark and crude.

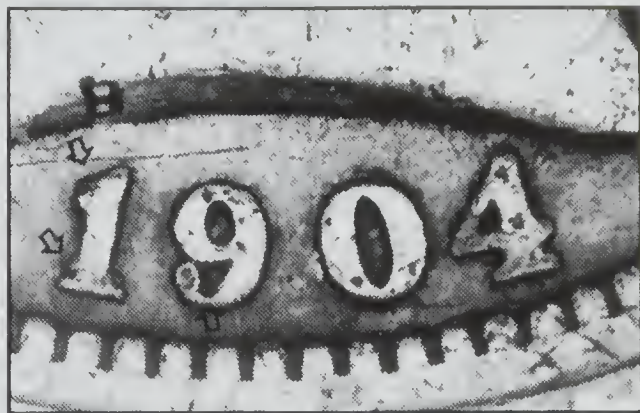


Editor's note: When a coin has a rough surface, it isn't always easy to tell if it's genuine or not because it probably has been in a corrosive environment like a sewer. Joe sent two other coins that we couldn't be sure about.

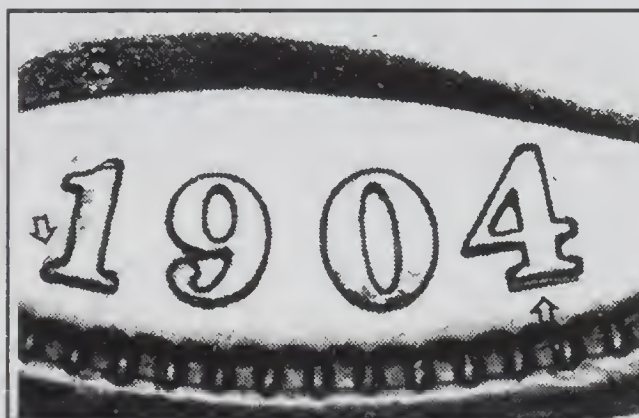
ODDITIES & VARIETIES



1898-P Dime, "Bearded Chin" discovered with a die crack. We have seen several examples of the "Bearded Chin" 1898, even mint state, but this is the first to show the die crack from the rim towards the chin.



1904-P Dime 19/19.
Possible triple punched 19.
(Courtesy of Ray Burd)



1904-P Half, RPD.
(Mint state example)



1902-O Quarter
with air bubbles on neck and above
date. (Similar to the half we
showed in the Spring '95 issue)

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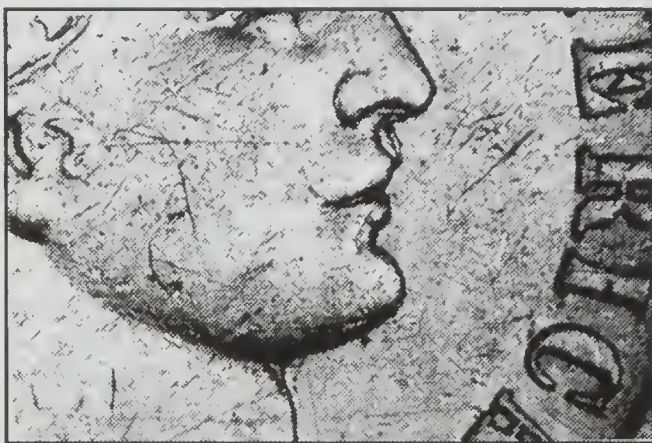
Robert Weikle

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ODDITIES & VARIETIES



1916-S Dime

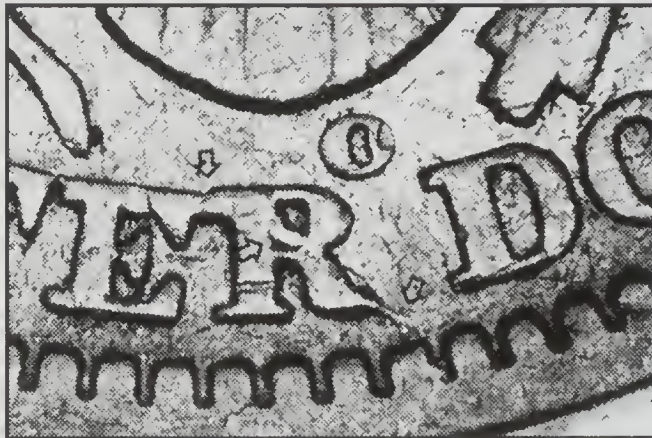
with part of ribbon effaced by die polishing.

The coin also has extra metal under the nose. (Courtesy of Duane Goetsch)



1899-P Quarter. RPD.

(Courtesy of Vincent Vento)



1903-O Quarter

with dramatic die crack,
rim through R to top of E. (Courtesy
of Jack White)

IN MEMORY OF... ELLIOT S. GOLDMAN

Elliot Goldman died at his home on December 26, 1995. He owned and founded Allstate Coin Co. in Tucson. Elliot was a charter member of the Barber Coin Collector's Society with a membership number 15. He had undergone two heart surgeries during the past year but maintained his presence on the national show circuit. Elliot was an energetic and outgoing person. Anyone who looked at material in his case would be greeted and engaged by an individual who seemingly never ignored a collector or buyer. We are fortunate to have had Elliot as a member of BCCS and extend our sympathy to his friends and family.

LOVE TOKENS

(Courtesy of Jack White)

These are all on the reverses of dimes.



1904



1892



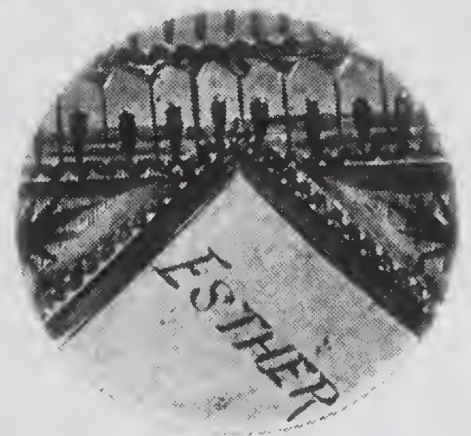
1892



1892



1901



1892

HISTORIC DOCUMENT

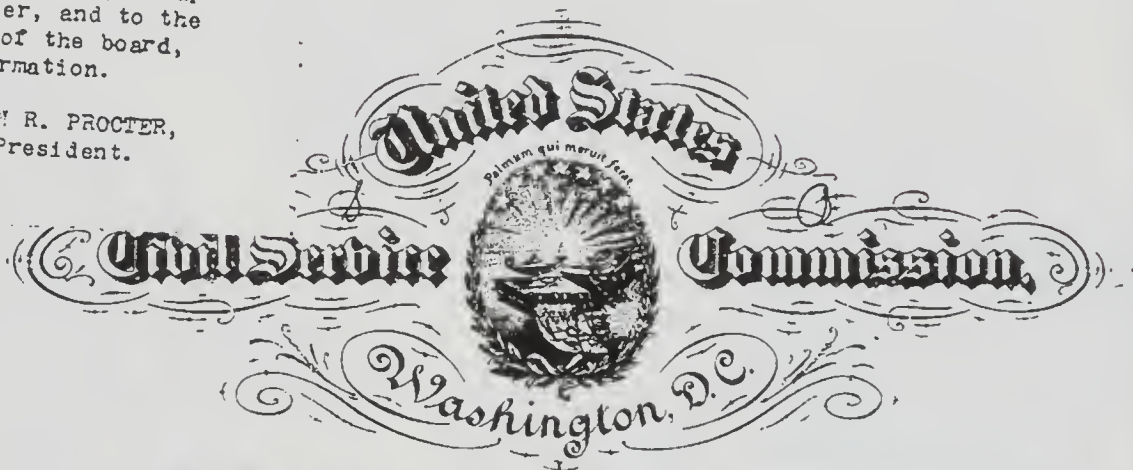
Phil Carrigan bought this original document (pictured below) appointing Charles Barber as Chairman of the Civil Service Commission in 1898. The little note at the upper left corner was attached. Phil purchased this interesting piece at a George Kolbe literature auction held in December, 1995.

(Min. 251)

U. S. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,
Washington, D. C.

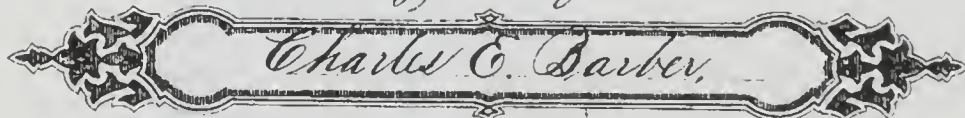
Please show this certificate to the nominating or appointing officer, and to the other members of the board, for their information.

JOHN R. PROCTER,
President.



★ *The United States Civil Service Commission,* ★
in the exercise of the authority conferred by the third section of the Act to Regulate and Improve the Civil Service, approved January 16, 1883, having confidence in his character and capacity, and after due consultation with the head of the office in which he is serving.

Thereby Designates



*to be a member
and Chairman*

OF THE



for the

U. S. Mint Service, Philadelphia, Pa.

*Washington, D. C.
April 26, 1898.*

By order of the Commission :

John R. Procter
President.

AN UNCOMMON OBSERVATION ON COMMON
HIGH GRADE P-MINT BARBER DIMES

by John Zinsky

This article came about as I was doing some late night pondering on my personal charts of the 3 Barber series. Some of the numbers before me started to arrange themselves in my mind in a somewhat interesting light.

We all know the common (P) dates of the 10c series as 1892, 1897-1902, 1905-1916 or a total of 19 dates. Common dates they are, even in the lofty mint state grades of 64/65 which will be the focus of this article.

But, if you add up the total of MS64/65 graded by NGC and PCGS and then divide by their mintages, of which we have some hefty numbers (1902 - 21.4 million, 1907 - 22.2 million, 1906 - 20 million), they sure don't look that common to me. High grade survivorship ranged from a paltry 3 coins per million for the 1902 to 37 per million for the first issue year 1892. That's 37 coins for each 20,000 rolls!

Using the population figures of October 1995 of NGC and PCGS, the 19 dates averaged at 13 high-grade specimens per million mintage. Some of the real winners seem to be the 1902 - 3 coins per 20,000 rolls, 1900 - 3.7, 1901 - 4.9, and the 1907/1905 at 5.4. Now please don't rush out and buy these scarcer guys as I still need some of these dates myself.

Even the high-pop later dates (1911-12,13,14,16) did not yield mind-numbing ratios. They ranged

| | Oct 95 NGC/PCGS Combined MS Pop:64/65 | Mintage (Rounded Up in Millions) | Coins Graded per Million Mintage or per 20,000 Rolls |
|------|--|--|---|
| 1892 | 444 | 12.1 | 37 |
| 1897 | 133 | 10.9 | 12 |
| 1898 | 162 | 16.3 | 9.9 |
| 1899 | 112 | 19.6 | 5.7 |
| 1900 | 65 | 17.6 | 3.7 |
| 1901 | 92 | 18.9 | 4.9 |
| 1902 | 66 | 21.4 | 3 |
| 1905 | 79 | 14.6 | 5.4 |
| 1906 | 118 | 20 | 5.9 |
| 1907 | 120 | 22.2 | 5.4 |
| 1908 | 114 | 10.6 | 10.8 |
| 1909 | 103 | 10.2 | 10 |
| 1910 | 155 | 11.5 | 13.5 |
| 1911 | 332 | 18.9 | 17.6 |
| 1912 | 354 | 19.3 | 18.2 |
| 1913 | 307 | 19.8 | 15.5 |
| 1914 | 390 | 17.4 | 22.5 |
| 1915 | 120 | 5.6 | 21.4 |
| 1916 | 454 | 18.5 | 24.6 |

from 15.5 for the 1913 to the series closer 1916 at 24.6. Now as to how many of these are nice or PQ is another question altogether. Whether your preference is bright white or prettily toned, I believe by being a bit choosy about your specimen you would further lower the ratio per million...

In MS-64, these coins were once at the 1,000 level when in March of '92 I seriously started to assemble my set, common P-mints were \$450. At the present price of around \$200, these sure seem like a good buy with the scarcer ratios being an outright steal -- that is unless 6 months from now they are only \$150!

Happy hunting.



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Dave

David W. Lange
Director of Research



BARBER DIME JOURNEY

By Michael T. Williams

Several years prior to my joining the BCCS (1989), I obtained my first Barber coin at a local coin club meeting. I won an 1892-P dime in the Eugene Coin Club raffle. This particular coin was an EF, cleaned I'm sure, yet not too bad -- at least to my 1986 eye. The most interesting feature of this common coin was the fact that it had a fairly significantly rotated reverse.

Barber fever had not yet struck when I was attending a local coin show in McMinnville, OR in 1987, and I happened to meet another collector who expressed a need for a Barber dime for "type." Easy come -- easy go! I sold the 1892-P EF dime for \$10. As I recollect, that was the only Barber coin I have seen that was struck from rotated dies.

About a year later I began hearing and reading about Barber coinage. While attending the annual Springfield Coin Show, I was able to purchase a 1910-S dime for \$12. I tend to grade a bit on the conservative side and I thought the coin graded VF-30. Once away from the dealer's table, a quick glance at my Redbook revealed the 1910-S to be a scarcer date. I felt as though I had made a good purchase. Only after I joined the BCCS and began eagerly reading and studying about Barbers did I come to find out how tough the 1910-S dime really was. I sold this particular coin to a dealer friend who was happy to pay EF money.

During 1991 and 1992 I began reading more coin literature and subsequently set about defining my collecting goals. During this period I received Volume IV, #1 of the BCCS Journal in which I read Arno Safran's article, "The Case for Collecting P-Mint Barber Dimes." Suddenly I had an exciting goal! I could really imagine the beauty of a choice AU date set of P-mint dimes. As Arno asserts, this set is achievable and affordable and presents unique challenges.

Presently, I am accumulating some choice coins, having recently attracted the 1894 and 1896 dates, while rejecting an offered 1895. I would love the opportunity to secure choice specimens of 1895, 1899, 1901-1904. The early 1900's dates have been tough to find "nice" -- tougher than their mintages might suggest. I really enjoy collecting an aesthetically pleasing group of coins. These little silver AU "wafers" are sure pretty -- and often more so than their mint state cousins.





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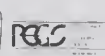
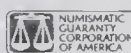
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STATE OF THE MARKET

Editor's note: I'm going to try to make this a regular feature.

Dimes:

Key dates in full rim good are in strong demand. The 95-O, in particular, should start to move up as several dealers are paying well over the \$137 bid level of the Grey sheet for decent specimens.

The market is also strong for '96-O and '97-O in XF and AU, but many other semi-keys are in ready supply from F-AU.

In mint state, buyers like current levels for nice certified MS62-63 coins (retail about \$120-140). Certified MS64 common dates at about \$200-235 sell quickly when offered.

Quarters:

The three coins in greatest demand at present are the 1897-S in F - AU, 1901-S in F - AU and 1905-O F and up. Many other dates also sell well F - AU. AU58 is still the best single grade in this market.

Several dealers are putting MS sets together for clients and most certified better dates are off the market at this time in MS62-64.

Halves:

In low grade, demand is strongest for 1892-O and 1893-O & S in full rimmed good or better. Look for these to go up. 1892-S may be overrated in G - VG as is the '97-S in Fine and VF. In higher circ grades the '97-O will bring its high price as does the 1904-S. Strong demand also for the 13-P in AU.

Several recent auctions have shown that fresh MS halves will often bring way over Grey sheet bid levels. Look for the Eliasberg Auction to set new records. His coins are reputed to be very nice!



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Reach 250+ collectors who are serious about Barbers! Any member may run a classified ad in the *Journal*. Rates are \$4 per ad (over 4 lines add 50¢ per line). Send with check to: Editor, BCCS; 6095 Indian River Rd, #204; Va. Beach, VA 23464.

If you have Barbers you want to buy or sell and don't need a lot of space to do it, the *Classified Section* is for you.

FOR SALE: Group of early BCCS Journal issues as follows: vol. I #1, #2 (2 copies), #4; vol II #1, #2 and #4 (note, vol. II #1 and #2 are not available from the Society). Price: \$25 or best offer. Phil Carrigan, 1105 Crescent Ct., Round Lake IL 60073.

Back Issues For Sale

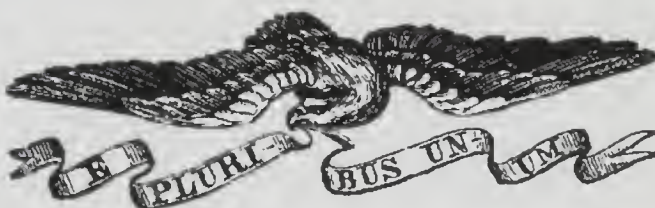
Of the 24 BCCS Journals issued, 21 are still available at \$4.00 per issue. Lower pricing is charged for multiple issue orders. Typically \$14.00 for a set of 4 issues. \$28.00 for a set of 8 issues, and \$55.00 for a set of 16 issues and \$3 each for any additional issue.

No longer in print are Vol. II, # 1 and #2 and Vol. V, #1. A copying machine copy of these can be made up and they are priced at \$5.50 each. Make check payable to BCCS.

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Note: There has been some confusion about the Spring 1995 issue. It was designated Vol. V, #5 in error. It is really Vol. VI, #1.



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A LITTLE BIT OF VARIETY

by Michael J. Jurek

Inspired by Jack White's article on the 1900-0 "O" over horizontal "O" dime, I unearthed my four specimens for another peek. One in Fine, one PCI-G4 and two raw Goods made up my stash of this RPM. None of the exciting diagnostics Jack wrote about could be seen on my coins, although some faint reverse clash marks may be evident on my highest grade coin.

Undaunted by the lack of any new pick-up points on my dimes, I looked through my other, although few, Barber oddities. I paused to re-examine my 1915-D VF quarter, RPD#102 as illustrated in David Lawrence's book. My 20x microscope showed the repunching nicely on the 1 and 5, but overall still a bit of a snoozer. I looked again at the reverse, hoping that the repunched mintmark was there too, but alas, no double variety. It was then that I noticed a small die crack beginning at the denticle above the "I" in "United" which connected to the "T." A second die crack connects the "T" and "E" in "States." The last "S" also has the upper loop half filled with a metal blob.

A third die crack was evident connecting the "M" and "E" in "America." At this point, I raced to see if the bottom half of the coin contained anything of further interest and I was rewarded with even more die cracks! A small crack at the top of "A" (quarter), and another connecting the tops of "R," "T" and "E" were found. In "Dollar," a final crack was evident on the right leg of the "A" that connects to the "R." I also found that the "U" in quarter has a strongly recut upper left serif. Amazing, all of this on a single Barber coin!

Now the question remains whether the reverse die was retired due to this damage while the obverse RPD was still in service. Or, was the obverse RPD die placed into service while this shattered reverse die was being used? It indicates that there may exist three obverse/reverse die combinations (RPD/cracks, RPD/no cracks, no RPD/cracks). Fortunately, the availability of this date may make this investigation simpler than with the majority of dates in the series.



PERSEVERANCE PAYS

by Steve Szczerbiak

Having been an on again off again coin collector since the late 1960's, I attended the 100th ANA convention in Chicago with the expressed desire to finally complete my first date and mint mark set of coins -- a VG set of Barber quarters.

With this in mind, I frantically searched the bourse seeking the dates I needed. Unable to find many dates a courteous dealer referred me to David Lawrence. I purchased several coins and his book on quarters.

This fine book helped me to understand the genuine characteristics of the key dates. Being now better informed, I purchased an 1896-S and a 1901-S, both in VG, and was ecstatic. But I also remembered in the book reading about the known mint mark positions of the 1897-S quarter, which I did not own a specimen of at the time.

Beginners luck a short while later, and I became the proud owner of an AG 1897-S center position mint marked quarter. Upon showing the coin to Dave, I was unfortunately informed it had already been discovered. Not to be outdone, I painstakingly searched for this variety. It was now an obsession. Two and a half years passed during which I only found three coins another AG and two Goods. But where were the higher grades?

I went on to the 1994 ANA Convention in Detroit, a great show but no new finds. I attended the BCCS meeting, a first for me, and enjoyed myself. Picking up a copy of the latest journal at the meeting, you can imagine my shock when a 97-S centered mint mark quarter was pictured in AU. I was disappointed but not discouraged.

I attended the three Milwaukee shows of 1995. The Central States show was fun, a few neat varieties but no 97-S. The second show was rather disappointing; no varieties to speak of. When the third came I was all set to forego it, assuming there would be nothing for me. I had already completed the quarters, dimes and only needed a few halves.

The drive to the show from Chicago was terrible. A cold rain and gloom prevailed but something inside told me things would get better. I just knew it. Inside the hall I settled into my usual routine, looking for Barbers. A short while later, I was at a table admiring an 1893-S half when something caught my eye. It was a 97-S quarter labeled AU. Did I dare ask to examine it, flip it over? I just had to! And there it was, the coin I desired for so long. My personal odyssey about to be fulfilled. I could barely negotiate the deal

due to shock and disbelief ,but somehow I managed.

As the excitement subsides I can now realize that my time has been well spent searching for this coin. But this quarter is only the beginning, as I truly admire all types of Barber varieties. Many new varieties are awaiting discovery. Who knows, maybe you're next? Just remember perseverance pays!

Editor's note: I was set up at that show, when Steve showed me the coin I asked myself how I had missed seeing it myself!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Phil,

I wanted to drop a line and provide a brief note of my collecting interests.

I was born in rural New Jersey in 1946. I was introduced to coin collecting by my Father who collected coins most of his life and by an uncle who also collected coins. I started collecting at age 8 years, mostly Barbers. Growing up on a farm, necessities were purchased from a truck which delivered house-to-house. I expressed my interest to the driver and in turn, he saved all the Barbers he got in change and let me have them at face value. Surprisingly, there were still quite a few in circulation.

When I graduated from college in 1971, my Father and uncle gave me their collections which I held on to until 1988. From then on I began upgrading and getting my coins slabbed. From 50 or so dealers I have dealt with, I've narrowed it down to two that I regularly do business with. They service my want list and give me fair deals.

My Barber quarter set is PCGS/NGC MS63 to 66, missing three P-mints. The halves are also slabbed and range from MS63 to 66. In this set I need five tougher dates.

Dennis Nagy

(comment received with a dues payment)

Paul:

Hello! Enclosed is my payment to renew my membership. I will always enjoy the feeling I receive when I open the mail box and pull out my latest edition of the Journal. **What a great feeling!** Thanks for your help and support.

Happy collecting (Barbers)

T.W.

ANALYZING MINT STATE BARBER DIMES

By Charlie Mamiye

Dave Lawrence has written articles for the Grey Sheet analyzing mint state Barber Quarters and Halves (see Vol. V #2 & 4), but he never got to the dimes. I told him I would like to do a similar analysis for these, and he encouraged me. Well, here it goes...my first article for the BCCS Journal.

In this issue I've started by adding up the PCGS & NGC population report data for all mint state dimes and ranking them. Some conclusions become obvious. In the next issue I'll talk about computing a mint state price index to see which are undervalued.

The table lists the 75 different dates and their total mint state pops. and ranking. Obviously, some coins have been submitted more than once and, also, there are still coins out there in collections which have yet to be submitted and counted. So it's not perfect.

What do we learn from this table? First, we can assign new Rarity Ratings in Mint State (Dave & I have done this together).

Keep in mind these ratings don't relate to those for Bust Halves or Large Cents. They are just a way to compare the rarity among Barber Dimes. Also, as Dave points out, they are not always all nice.

There might only be 3 - 5 of the 95-O that are nice, white coins or with pretty toning, etc.

Second, what are the changes from Dave's rarity ratings in his book from 1991? Very few actually. The '98-O & 1900-O were R6 -- now R5. 1901-S and 1907-D were R4 now R5, but none of the top coins then have fallen greatly or jumped up greatly.

Oops -- out of room -- more next time.

| RARITY RATINGS | | |
|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| | | Pop |
| R8 | 1894-S | (less than 5) |
| R6 | 1895-O | (11-20) |
| R5 | See Table | (21-35) |
| R4 | | (36-70) |
| R3 | | (71-125) |
| R2 | | (126-250) |
| R1 | | (>250) |

**Barber Dimes - Total PCGS/NGC Population
in All Mint State Grades Combined (As of July 1995)**

| Rank | Date | Total | Rank | Date | Total |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 | 1894-S | 3 | 39T | 1903-P | 100 |
| 2 | 1895-O | 19 | | 1896-P | 100 |
| 3 | 1896-O | 22 | 41 | 1913-S | 102 |
| 4 | 1899-O | 24 | 42-T | 1905-O | 105 |
| 5 | 1898-O | 25 | | 1907-O | 105 |
| 6 | 1894-O | 26 | 44 | 1906-O | 110 |
| 7 | 1900-O | 28 | 45T | 1894-P | 116 |
| 8 | 1898-S | 29 | | 1914-S | 116 |
| 9 | 1901-S | 31 | 47 | 1905-S | 123 |
| 10T | 1909-S | 33 | 48 | 1912-S | 125 |
| | 1897-S | 33 | 49T | 1892-O | 138 |
| 12 | 1907-D | 34 | | 1902-P | 138 |
| 13 | 1896-S | 36 | 51T | 1893-P | 141 |
| 14T | 1902-S | 37 | | 1904-P | 141 |
| | 1903-S | 37 | 53 | 1905-P | 149 |
| 16 | 1909-D | 40 | 54 | 1911-D | 163 |
| 17 | 1902-O | 41 | 55 | 1950-P | 169 |
| 18 | 1892-S | 42 | 56 | 1911-S | 180 |
| 19 | 1901-O | 43 | 57 | 1916-S | 205 |
| 20T | 1899-S | 47 | 58 | 1912-D | 219 |
| | 1904-S | 47 | 59 | 1901-P | 237 |
| 22T | 1907-S | 52 | 60 | 1915-P | 242 |
| | 1910-S | 52 | 61 | 1909-P | 244 |
| 24T | 1895-S | 54 | 62 | 1908-P | 251 |
| | 1903-O | 54 | 63 | 1897-P | 276 |
| 26 | 1897-O | 58 | 64 | 1907-P | 299 |
| 27T | 1893-S | 58 | 65 | 1906-P | 300 |
| | 1908-S | 58 | 66 | 1914-D | 338 |
| 29 | 1909-O | 63 | 67 | 1910-P | 349 |
| 30T | 1895-P | 68 | 68 | 1899-P | 363 |
| | 1908-O | 68 | 69 | 1898-P | 379 |
| 32 | 1906-S | 71 | 70 | 1913-P | 679 |
| 33 | 1893-O | 74 | 71 | 1912-P | 680 |
| 34 | 1910-D | 78 | 72 | 1914-P | 730 |
| 35 | 1900-D | 81 | 73 | 1911-P | 742 |
| 36 | 1908-D | 84 | 74 | 1892-P | 1,016 |
| 37 | 1915-S | 88 | 75 | 1916-P | 1,029 |
| 38 | 1900-S | 90 | | | |

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